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# Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery Reform Advisory Committee

### Governing authority: Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development (Minister)

### Agency: Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA)

### Agency responsibility: Executive Director Fisheries and Aquaculture (Executive Director)

1. Background

The Government is committed to delivering reform in the commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery to unlock industry’s potential, provide long-term sustainability and cost effective management, and drive efficiencies in onshore and offshore operations to secure a future for the fishery.

A Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery Reform Advisory Committee, established by the Minister pursuant to section 20 of the Fisheries Management Act 2007, will provide advice to Government on the development of a reform package and a new management framework.

The package will be guided by the Marine Scalefish Fishery Strategic Review Working Group’s Report (2016) and be consistent with the election commitment. Key features will include introducing zones within the fishery, fleet rationalisation, and implementation of modern management arrangements that includes due consideration of a regional Individual Transferable Quota system.

1. Purpose

To develop, in consultation with licence holders and key stakeholders in the South Australian Marine Scalefish Fishery, recommendations on a reform package for the fishery that may include:

Introducing zones of management within the fishery that recognise the economic, ecological and social diversity within the fishery;

* Achieving fleet rationalisation that secures a minimum of 30% reduction in the total number of licences;
* Implementing key management reforms, including a system of regional individual transferable quotas, that will achieve a more sustainable and commercially viable fishery and a mechanism to facilitate on-going autonomous adjustment;
* Consideration of other matters that may be referred by the Minister or the Executive Director Fisheries and Aquaculture.

In preparing advice and recommendations to Government, the Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery Reform Advisory Committee will:

1. Consider the cost effectiveness, feasibility, practicability, and industry acceptance levels.
2. Refer to the 2016 Report of the SA Marine Scalefish Fishery Strategic Review and work to achieve the objectives developed by the Marine Scalefish Fishery Strategic Review Working Group namely:
   * To ensure the ongoing sustainability of fish stocks and the environment which supports them;
   * To foster a vibrant and profitable commercial MSF;
   * To provide an effective mechanism for the MSF to autonomously adjust in the future without the need for further government assistance;
   * To ensure that the commercial sector of the MSF maintains its current allocation of the resource so it can continue the ongoing supply of freshly-caught seafood to SA consumers; and
   * To foster long-term community support for commercial fishing activities as contributors to the South Australian food industry and broader economy.
3. Examine the practicality of implementing individual transferable catch quotas as a preferred method of managing the fishery unless it can be shown that another form of management is more effective at achieving considerations in a) and objectives in b) above.
4. Address issues related to the shared access to the Marine Scalefish Fishery by other commercial fisheries, specifically the rock lobster fisheries, and be cognisant of other non-commercial fisheries that have access to the Marine Scalefish Fishery.
5. Ensure appropriate engagement and consultation with industry licence holders and key fishery stakeholders on all matters that are considered by the Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery Reform Advisory Committee;
6. Engage with the Marine Fishers Association Industry Forum to seek industry input and feedback on reform options as they are developed;
7. Utilise the FRDC Research Project Working Group to provide technical support to analyse available information about the fishery, evaluate various reform options and to provide scientific advice;
8. Refer any specific tasks to the Executive Director PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, that would require a fisheries-independent investigation, such as those matters that relate to a licence buy-back program and the allocation of individual shares of access to the fishery
9. Provide a written Chair’s Summary to the Minister on the key deliberations of the Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery Reform Advisory Committee following each meeting
10. Deliverables and Timeframe

The Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery Reform Advisory Committee shall, on or before **Wednesday 31 July 2019**, deliver to the Minister a report that includes:

* Recommendations for the introduction of separate zones of management within the Marine Scalefish Fishery, detailing the key management and regulatory arrangements of the zones;
* A recommended approach, detailing the method, timeframes and estimated expenditures, to achieve a minimum 30% reduction in the total number of licences in the Marine Scalefish Fishery;
* Preliminary considerations on key reforms to modernise the management framework relating to the commercial harvest of marine scalefish species that promote effective, efficient and sustainable fisheries management, efficient industry operation and prevent over-capitalisation in the fishery.

The Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery Reform Advisory Committee shall, on or before **Thursday 31 October 2019**, deliver to the Minister a report that includes:

* Recommendations on key reforms to modernise the management framework relating to the commercial harvest of marine scalefish species. The recommended reforms must promote effective, efficient and sustainable fisheries management, efficient industry operation and prevent over-capitalisation in the fishery.

1. Membership

Membership of the Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery Reform Advisory Committee comprises:

* Independent Chair with experience in fisheries resource management
* Independent Economist with expertise related to fisheries resource management
* Six representatives of the commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery
* One representative of the commercial rock lobster fishery
* One representative of the South Australian recreational fishing sector
* One representative of SARDI Aquatic Sciences
* One representative of PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture will provide executive support, including secretarial services, travel and meeting arrangements.

1. Meeting procedures

Separate to these Terms of Reference, the Minister will determine the procedures to be observed by the Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery Reform Advisory Committee, pursuant to Section 20(5) of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*.

1. Guiding principles

In developing its recommendations and proposed reform package, the Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery Reform Advisory Committee will take into account, where relevant, the following guiding principles:

* *Consistency and transparency* – proposals should be developed in a consultative and transparent manner
* Cost effectiveness and value for money for both Government and industry
* *Certainty for stakeholders* – proposals should be developed in a way that recognises the needs of different users of the resource, particularly those who rely on it for their livelihood
* *Opportunities to be heard* – licence holders in the fishery should have the opportunity to participate in developing management proposals through a transparent process
* *Best available information* – proposals should take into account the best available information at the time the proposals are developed
* *Integrity of fisheries management arrangements* – fisheries management proposals should be consistent with legislative requirements set out in the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*.

1. Governance and confidentiality

* All written representations made by key stakeholders to the Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery Reform Advisory Committee will become public records.
* Confidential information such as reported catch and effort information will not be identified or revealed through the process, unless authorised under Section 124 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007.*
* All documents and other materials, other than members’ personal documents, used and produced by the Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery Reform Advisory Committee in the course of its activities remain the property of the Department. The Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery Reform Advisory Committee will convene a face-to-face meeting at least four times per year and should utilise teleconferencing facilities as required and where suitable, to enable cost-effective, timely and efficient meeting procedures.